

The Word

Why Study the Bible?

HOLY
BIBLE

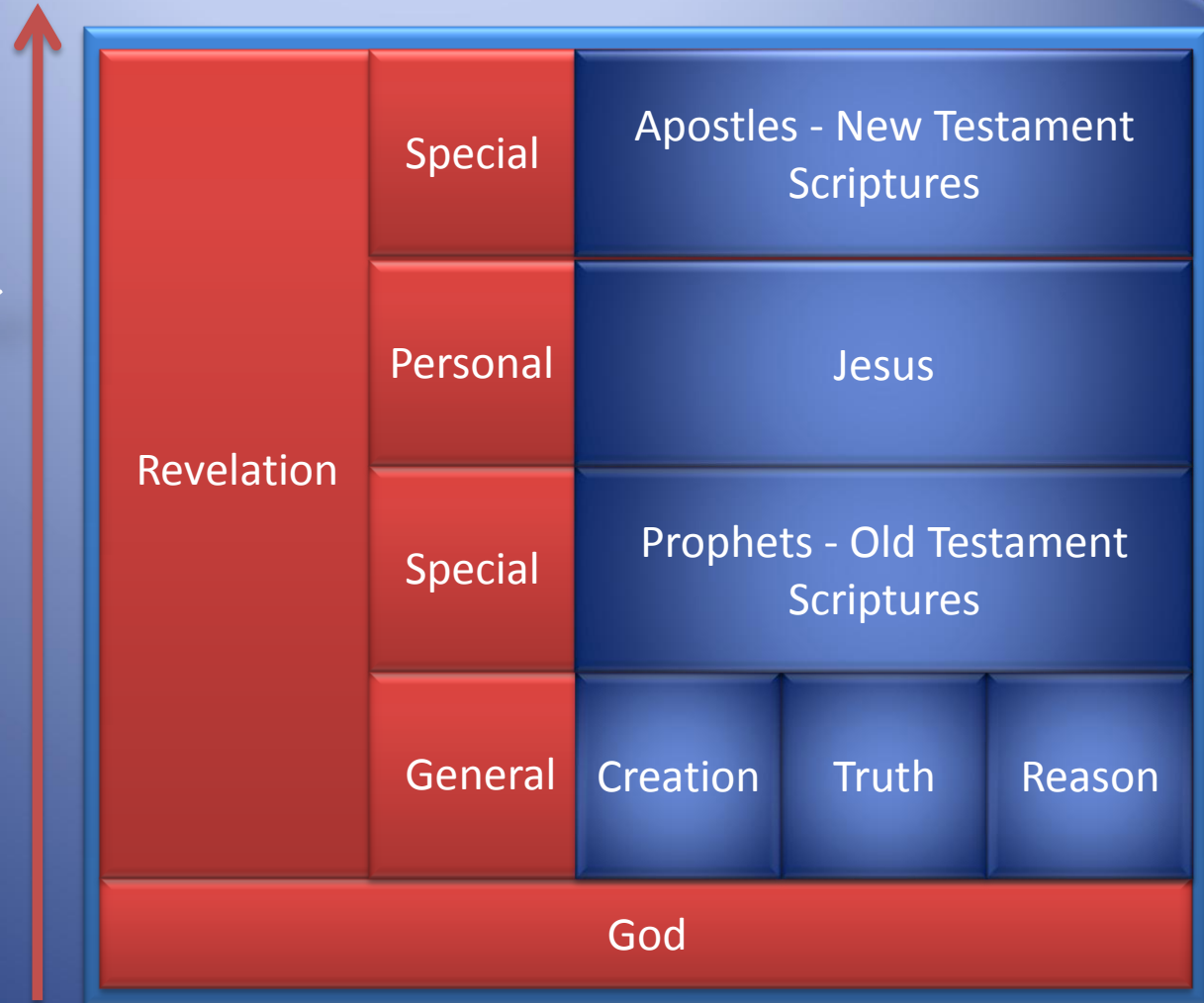
CONCORDANCE

“Theologians still owe it to the rest of us to explain why we should not treat their discipline as we do astrology or phrenology.”

- Alasdair MacIntyre, Philosopher

God's Revelatory Framework

Original Order
Of Global
Revelatory
Framework
Given by
God



Four Motifs of our Culture

Which lead to the rejection of Scripture's Relevance

1. Autonomous individualism
 2. Narcissistic hedonic assertiveness
 3. Reductive naturalism
 4. Absolute moral relativism
- Thomas Oden





What we learn about Scripture from Psalm 19

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the
simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing
the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are
true; they are righteous altogether."
(Psalm 19:7-9)

Six Titles for Scripture...

Six Characteristics of Scripture...

Six Benefits of Scripture...

Psalm 19: 7-9

Title	Characteristic	Benefit
The Law	Perfect	“Restores the soul”
The Testimony	Sure	“Making wise the simple”
The Precepts	Right	“Rejoicing the heart”
The Commandment	Pure	“Enlightening the eyes”
The Fear	Clean	“Enduring forever”
The Judgments	True	“Righteous altogether”

The Law



- Law: 'torah' ~ instruction, prophetic teaching; divine law
- Perfect: means it is complete; "all sided" lacks nothing (opposite of evil)
- Restoring the soul: "nephesh" ~ the inner person. When you restore something, you bring back what is needed or lacking

The Testimony



- **Testimony:** lit. 'witness' – it is God's revelation and witness to us about Himself and His will
- **Sure:** 'prove to be firm'; reliable; faithful
- **Making wise the simple:** lit. "open door"; everything comes in and out. A door keeps the right things in/out. "chakam": skilled in the art of living; make firm free of defect by the exercise of skill

“He [speaking of H. G. Wells] thought that the object of opening the mind is simply opening the mind, whereas I am incurably convinced that the object of opening the mind, as in opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.”

- G. K. Chesterton



"For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"—and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic word **made more sure**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."

(2 Peter 1:16-19)

For Wisdom of Salvation

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!" However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

(Romans 10:12-17)

For Wisdom of Salvation

”“And he [the rich man] said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ “But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ “But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’ ””

(Luke 16:27-31)



The Precepts



- Precepts: Instructions with procedures
- Right: 'straight'; righteous
- Rejoicing the Heart: "gladden"; "make someone merry". Heart – the inner man.

"Your words were found and I ate them,
And Your words became for me a joy and
the delight of my heart"
(Jeremiah 15:16)

The Commandment



- **Commandment:** not suggestion or optional; mandates
- **Pure:** lit. 'clear' and/or 'clean'. God's commands are easy to understand and direct
- **Enlightening the eyes:** "to be or become light". The Bible shows you how things really are – reality. You're no longer walking in darkness; you know how to live

"Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path."
(Psalm 119:105)

The Fear



- Fear: object causing fear, reverence, and respect
- Clean lit. 'moral cleanness'
- Enduring forever: it will never pass away; provides security – can trust what God says today will remain forever and will not change

"The conclusion, when all has been heard,
is: fear God and keep His
commandments, because this applies to
every person. For God will bring every
act to judgment, everything which is
hidden, whether it is good or evil."
(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction."
(Proverbs 1:7)

Moral Purity

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word."

(Psalm 119:9-16)



“This Book will keep you from sin or sin
will keep you from this book.”
- Author Unknown

Moral Purity

A man complained to his pastor that he just couldn't memorize parts of the Bible so he was giving up on reading it – he felt it didn't benefit him if he couldn't remember it well enough. The pastor took an old pitcher with holes in it and asked the man to fill it up under a water faucet. “But the water will just leak out...”, the man said. “Do it anyway”, said the pastor, “and leave it under the water for 10 minutes.” The man did and all the water ran out. “See”, the man said, “I told you – all the water ran through the holes.” “Yes”, said the pastor, “but the pitcher sure is a lot cleaner now isn't it?”

Enduring

"The grass withers, the flower fades, But
the word of our God stands forever."
(Isaiah 40:8)

Enduring

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but
My words will not pass away.”
(Matthew 24:35)

The Judgments



- **Judgments:** divine adjudications from the bench of the Judge of all the earth, verdicts. When the Bible renders a verdict, it is true.
- **True:** 'emeth' Literally to have a "firmness", "constancy" and "duration". It implies an everlasting substance.
- **Righteous altogether:** comprehensively righteous – produces the perfect end result in us

"Righteous are You, O Lord, And
upright are Your judgments."
(Psalm 119:137)

Psalm 19 Conclusion on Scripture

"They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward."

(Psalm 19:10-11)

Psalm 19: 7-9

Title	Characteristic	Benefit
The Law	Perfect	“Restores the soul” ~ transforms the inner man; brings what we lack
The Testimony	Sure	“Making wise the simple” ~ imparts wisdom to whomever it touches
The Precepts	Right	“Rejoicing the heart” ~ brings joy to the listener/reader
The Commandment	Pure	“Enlightening the eyes” ~ provides guidance for living
The Fear	Clean	“Enduring forever” ~ supplies stability and security in life
The Judgments	True	“Righteous altogether” ~ ensures justice in everything

Other Reasons for Studying the Bible

For Defensive Protection

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him."

(Matthew 4:1-11)

For Offensive Warfare

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,"
(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Logismos: reasonings, ideologies. Hypsōma: above this world

Whatever is raised up against the knowledge of God is error. You destroy error with only one thing – the truth. And the one perfect source of truth is God's Word.

For Offensive Warfare

“Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered.”

- C. S. Lewis



For Spiritual Growth

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

(1 Peter 2:1-3)

“long” – lit. “desire longingly” with implication of a need

“pure” – lit. “unadulterated”; “honest”

“grow” – lit. “increase in size or quality”

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"
(2 Timothy 3:16)

Summary of Bible Study Benefits



- Restores what's missing in us
- Make one wise
- Bring joy to life
- Guide for life
- Security for life
- Make completely righteous
- Defensive protection
- Offensive warfare
- Spiritual growth

What happens when the following run unchecked? And God's Word is ignored...

1. Autonomous individualism
 2. Narcissistic hedonic assertiveness
 3. Reductive naturalism
 4. Absolute moral relativism
- Thomas Oden



The mercy of God, according to the prophets, does not permit societal sin to last more than three or at most four generations.”
- Thomas Oden

But When God's Word is Unleashed...

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”
(Isaiah 55:10-11)

“I think a new world will arise out of the religious mists when we approach our Bible with the idea that it is not only a book which was once spoken, but a book which is **now speaking.**”

- A. W. Tozer, *The Speaking Voice*

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